

LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
-draft minutes. -

January 18, 2019 at 9:00 AM
Shutesbury Town Hall

Members Present: John Gorey, Catherine Hilton, Tracy McNaughton and Mark Rivers
Guest: John Kinder

1. The minutes from the October 19, 2019, meeting were reviewed and approved.
2. Town Annual Report

Catherine volunteered to draft the LWAC Section of the Annual Town Report, which will be reviewed during the February meeting.

3. Discussions about ongoing projects

During the past few years, the committee has voted to promote several projects; however little progress on them has been made. We discussed whether to table them for the foreseeable future or to continue pushing them forward. We decided to move forward as follows:

- Traffic and pedestrian safety issues at the state park

The committee felt that there are significant pedestrian, traffic safety and parking issues during busy weekends, and we still want to encourage the Select Board and the police chief to develop a mitigation plan that can be reviewed with the LWAC and local residents. The focus is primarily around parking/traffic safety issues. Mark, Catherine, and Tracy will speak with Becky and Dan about discussing at a future Select Board meeting.

- Rebuilding the Randall Road boat ramp

The committee is still hoping for a discussion of the subject at an SB meeting and Mark will ask Becky to add it as a discussion item at an upcoming Select Board meeting.

- Restoration of Lake Wyola's north cove

While there does not seem to be enough funding to develop the engineering plans for both the North Cove restoration and up-stream remediation, Catherine suggested short term efforts focus on up-stream remediation. The LWAC will work with concerned parties to see if there is interest in separating the two aspects of this project and focus solely on upstream remediation.

4. Update on Locks Pond Road Culvert repair
5. 2020 Water Safety Concerns

Tracy expressed concerns related to boating safety on the lake. The committee felt that it could be best addressed by asking the police chief to attend the LWAC annual meeting

The meeting ended at 10:55. The next meeting is scheduled for February 15th.

Lake Wyola Advisory Committee

An important action of the committee this year has been preparation for the annual drawdown of the lake in fall 2019. The purpose of the drawdown is to protect the shoreline and structures on it from ice damage, but it must be done carefully to avoid danger to wildlife living in, around, and under the water. LWAC filed a Notice of Intent with the Conservation Commission and had a Wildlife Habitat Evaluation performed, resulting in a timeline for the lowering of the lake that allows wildlife to move to safety. This is the first time LWAC has filed a Notice of Intent for what has previously been considered a routine matter.

Dam safety is now a significant component of the committee's work. Walter Tibbetts, as Emergency Management Director, has worked closely with Morris Root Engineering to define the scope of a necessary repair to the dam, which will take place when the Locks Pond Road culvert is replaced. The culvert replacement is itself an important component of dam safety with which the committee has been concerned.

In addition to advising the town on issues related to the lake, LWAC offered help and support to the Lake Wyola Association and lake residents in such matters as managing the goose population and looking into options for storm water reduction.

Mark Rivers conducted testing of the lake water for conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, and water transparency. Through the Board of Health the committee is kept aware of the results of weekly testing of the Association beaches. Attempts to get data for the state park – the weekly beach testing as well as the pre- and post-season surface water and monitoring well testing – have thus far been largely unsuccessful.

Possible future projects for this committee include

- A discussion among town and state officials of traffic safety issues at Lake Wyola State Park on certain busy weekends in summer;
- Enrollment in the Office of Fishing and Boating Access's program to rebuild the boat ramp at Randall Road free of charge;
- Mitigation of silt runoff into the lake from Fiske Brook.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Hilton